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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXIV.1, Spring 2004

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

In this newsletter you will hear from our new President, Meredith Lee, welcoming the newly elected officers Dan Wilson, Jonathan Hess and Catriona MacLeod, thanking the outgoing President, Hans Vaegt, and the Directors-at-Large, Ellis Dye and Waltraud Maierhofer, for their dedicated service to the Society, and inviting nominations for the position of Executive Secretary. You will be asked by our Secretary-Treasurer to pay your 2004 dues; notices about the *Yearbook* and scholarly meetings will remind you of the importance of doing so. Last but not least, you will hear from Gail Hart who remembers Jill Kowalik as a friend, scholar, and longtime member of this society. Those who were unable to attend the memorial service may appreciate the opportunity to listen to Ursula Mahlendorf's and Ted Bahr's eulogies at www.goethesociety.org.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

ELECTION RESULTS

Vice President:
W. Daniel Wilson (Berkeley)

Directors-at-Large:
Jonathan Hess (Chapel Hill)
Catriona MacLeod (Penn)

Congratulations to all three!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

At the 2003 MLA in San Diego we acknowledged with gratitude the leadership of three officers of the GSNA whose elected years of service ended in December: President Hans Rudolf Vaegt and Directors-at-Large Ellis Dye and Waltraud Maierhofer. It is a pleasure to thank them once again for their many contributions to the society and the energy they have brought to its multiple programs and activities.

It is appropriate here to introduce the newly elected officers who joined the board in January and who will be directing the GSNA for the next three years: Vice President Dan Wilson and Directors-at-Large Jonathan Hess and Catriona MacLeod. Angela Borchert is continuing in her role as Secretary-Treasurer, as are *Yearbook* Editor Simon Richter, Book Review Editor Martha

Helfer, and Webmaster and Goethe *News and Notes* Editor Burkhard Henke.

The Executive Secretary of our society is also continuing in his essential leadership role, but only for one more year. Clark Muenzer has informed the Board that he does not intend to seek renewal of his appointment when his term expires at the end of 2004. Clark has served capably and enthusiastically for over six years in this critical role and we are all greatly in his debt. We look forward to acknowledging his service when we meet in Philadelphia this coming December.

In the meantime, the Board needs to turn its attention to identifying an appropriate successor to Clark. An announcement of the position is posted on the next page and also on our website. Please give the office some thought, considering whether you know someone ideally suited to serve in this capacity or whether you yourself might enjoy assuming new (and largely pleasant) responsibilities. The Executive Secretary is the programmatic and administrative mainstay of the GSNA. Those of you who have had the pleasure of working with Clark will recognize some of the obvious traits we will be seeking: fair-mindedness, reliability, and a steady willingness to do the work. In Clark we have had the bonus of kindness and a warm and lively sense of humor. The rewards include contact with a wonderful group of people and a sustained opportunity for setting and guiding scholarly programming.

I look forward to serving as president of the GSNA in the next three years and working together with the new Board to promote scholarly inquiry about Goethe

and greater understanding of his life and times.

Cordially,

Meredith Lee
University of California, Irvine

NOMINATIONS INVITED— EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Board of the Goethe Society of North America invites nominations for the position of Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary provides administrative and programmatic leadership for the GSNA and serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. An appointment will be made by the Board for a renewable three-year term, beginning January 2005.

The position is responsible for sustaining GSNA programs and programmatic links with our affiliate organizations: the Modern Language Association, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and the German Studies Association. The Executive Secretary identifies GSNA members to organize the society's panels at the annual meetings of these organizations and keeps track of programs. From time to time, other administrative matters, such as the periodic MLA recertification, require exceptional attention and timely response. Attendance at the annual MLA meeting in December is mandatory, as the MLA also hosts the annual executive board and business meeting of the society, for which the Executive Secretary drafts the agenda in close

consultation with the President, other officers, and board members. It is also highly desirable for the Executive Secretary to be present at the ASECS meeting in March/ April or the GSA meeting in October.

The Executive Secretary facilitates communication among and between the society's officers, the executive board, and the members and responds to queries and requests from outside organizations. Communications with the Webmaster and the Secretary-Treasurer, who oversee the dissemination of society news and its financial/ legal matters respectively, are especially important, as are the ability and willingness to facilitate conversations from a distance about matters pertinent to the organization's mission.

Before May 1, please send letters of inquiry or nomination to:

Professor Meredith Lee
President, GSNA
Division of Undergraduate Education
256 Administration
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-5675
malee@uci.edu

Inquiries about the position can also be addressed to the current Executive Secretary Clark Muenzer at muenzer+@pitt.edu.

IN MEMORIAM
JILL KOWALIK 1949-2003

Jill Kowalik, Associate Professor of German at UCLA, died on October 30th

2003 of the metastatic breast cancer that she had fought heroically for the last fourteen years. She is survived by her husband, Bill Kowalik, by her father, siblings, nephews, and her German host family, the Bertholds, with whom she never lost touch. Jill was an active member of the GSNA right up to the end, working as a member of this past year's Nominating Committee. She is well-known to the membership for her excellent contributions to the *Goethe Yearbook*, including an article in the upcoming volume; for her presentations on Society panels and at the annual business meeting; for her organizing of sessions; and for her learned and lucid contributions to discussion at these sessions. She had a superior mind, a wicked sense of humor, and uncommon energy that never flagged despite more than a decade of drastic and painful medical therapy, including a wide variety of chemo regimens and two bone-marrow transplants. She lived fast and fully and she leaves a legacy of fine scholarship, as well as significant accomplishments in the field of environmental preservation.

Jill's scholarly work, though it included pieces on Thomas Mann and Nietzsche, centered on issues of mourning and grief in the eighteenth century. Her last project was a major book on the discourse of grief and mourning in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature and historical documents, including the *Leichenpredigt*. She worked long hours in her last two years to finish this important volume, but once the cancer appeared in her brain, she reluctantly stopped writing and devoted herself to her environmental work. She left a large amount of material behind and some of this will appear in journals

over the next few years. Negotiations are also underway for a book that will summarize the project and include some of her finished chapters.

Friends, acquaintances, colleagues, readers, and students of Jill's know how serious a loss we have suffered. We can no longer consult her and tap her wisdom, or meet her for drinks and hear her biting analyses of current scholarship, or listen to her jokes and laugh with her. In typical fashion, she planned her own memorial service, which took place on November 8th, 2003, and she expressed the wish that donations be sent to her environmentalist organization, "Hills for Everyone," at www.hillsforeveryone.org.

Gail Hart
University of California, Irvine

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

Volume XII of the *Yearbook*, the one honoring Tom Saine, will be mailed this summer. Contributions to Volume XIV are now being accepted. The *Yearbook* continues to be open to papers on any aspect or author of the Goethezeit, not just on Goethe. In contrast to many other publications, there is no stringent limit on the length of papers that can be considered. Please refer to the style sheet available at www.goethesociety.org.

Simon Richter
University of Pennsylvania

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Please send books for review and suggestions for books for review to:

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FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Minutes of the Business Meeting 28 December 2003

President Hans Rudolf Vaget called the annual business meeting to order on Sunday, December 28, at 3:30 pm at the MLA Convention in San Diego. President Vaget welcomed the members and delivered the following President's Report.

I. Elections

President Hans Rudolf Vaget was pleased to report that Daniel Wilson, University of California, Berkley, was elected as the new Vice President. He takes office January 1, 2004, and will assume the Presidency on January 1, 2005. The new Directors- at- Large are Catriona MacLeod, University of Pennsylvania and Jonathan Hess, University of North Carolina. Congratulations!

II. Prizes

Meredith Lee, University of California, Irvine, chaired the Prize Committee for the Gloria Flaherty Prize and the Essay Prize. The committee members were Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa, and Ellis Dye, Macalester College.

Victoria Harms, University of Washington, won the Gloria Flaherty Prize. She will be presenting a paper entitled "The Military and its Role within Society in *Egmont*" at the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, in Boston at the end of March.

The Essay Prize was awarded to Horst Lange, University of Nevada, Reno, for his essays "Wolves, Sheep, and the Shepherd: Legality, Legitimacy, and Hobbesian Political Theory in Goethe's *Götz von Berlichingen*." *Goethe Yearbook* 10 (2001): 1-30. and "Weislingen: Goethe's Politics of the Ego." *Goethe Yearbook* 11 (2002): 177-196.

Both prizes are advertised at www.goethesociety.org and in the newsletter.

III. Finances

The finances of the Goethe Society are healthy. The Society has a current membership of approximately 225 members, of which 21 members joined last year. We need to continue our membership drive. Brochures, that our webmaster Burkhard Henke, Davidson College designed are available from him or from Angela Borchert, University of Western Ontario. We also need to be keenly aware how important it is, that

graduate students join our society and would like to ask for the support of all members, particularly those teaching in graduate departments, to make students aware of the Society.

IV. Yearbook

Simon Richter, the *Yearbook* Editor, reported that Volume 12, a Festschrift for Tom Saine, first founding editor of *Yearbook*, will be sent out in the course of this summer. Volume 13, with which the *Yearbook* begins an annual publication schedule, is complete and half of the contributions for Volume 14 are accepted. The *Yearbook* has had a healthy number of submissions from all over the world.

V. Launching a Series of Monographs?

The Board is looking into the feasibility of launching a series of monographs to provide particularly younger members of the profession with the opportunity to publish on the "Goethezeit." In the current crisis, university presses seem to be becoming more and more reluctant to publish these monographs and the society wishes to further scholarship on Goethe. Suggestions and considerations of this idea should be sent to Clark Muenzer, Executive Secretary.

VI. Archive for the Goethe Society

Christa Sammons, Beinecke Library has suggested that the archive of the Society might be incorporated in the W.A. Speck Collection of Goetheana at Yale University. As a nucleus, the archive might include the business correspondence of the presidents. The Board is considering the suggestion.

VII. Thank you

President Vaget thanked all members, especially Clark Muenzer, for the pleasurable experience of being President of such a lively society. He was delighted to pass on the office to Meredith Lee, a member of the original “Gang of Four”, which included Tom Saine and Ted Bahr, both UC. Clark Muenzer took the opportune moment to thank President Vaget for his six years of active, intelligent, dedicated and at times provocative service to the Society. He presented a Goethe Medal as a token of appreciation to Hans Vaget.

VIII. Remembering

In memory of the members of the society who passed away this year, including Peter Boerner, Hugo Müller, Peter Pütz and Jill Kowalik, the Society observed a minute of silence. Special mention went to Peter Pütz, Professor Ordinarius at the University of Bonn, who was not only a member, but also a friend of the society. Hans Vaget remembered how they sat by the side of a pool in Santa Ana, discussing the construction of the GSNA. In memory of Jill Kowalik (UCLA), Gail Hart (UCI), read a eulogy, written by her friend, mentor and confidante, Ursula Mahlendorf (UCSB).

IX. Paper

Horst Lange, University of Nevada, Reno, presented “The Birth of Goethe’s Classicism from the Spirit of Self-Censorship”. A spirited discussion ensued.

Angela Borchert
Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GSA in Washington, DC, 6-10 October 2004

AATG-ACTFL in Chicago, IL, 19-21 November 2003

MLA in Philadelphia, PA, 27-30 December 2004

ASECS in Las Vegas, NV, 31 March-3 April 2005

Special GSNA Session at the GSA in Washington

Organized by Claire Baldwin, Colgate University

Goethe in Comparison

Moderator: Claire Baldwin, Colgate University

1. “Communication and Control: Goethe, Translation and Literature in an Age of Mass Media” (Andrew Piper, Columbia University)

2. “Memorable Encounters: Napoleon, Dumas and Goethe” (Karin Barton, University of Toronto)

3. “Goethe's Affinities / Sebald's Coincidences” (Sara Friedrichsmeyer, University of Cincinnati)

Commentator: Gesa Dane, Universität Göttingen

Special GSNA Session at the MLA in Philadelphia

Organized by Waltraud Maierhofer,
University of Iowa

Goethe and Schiller Revisited

Moderator: Waltraud Maierhofer
(University of Iowa)

1. "The Impact of Natural Science on the Work of Friedrich Schiller: A Critical Reappraisal of the Letter of August 23, 1794 to Goethe" (Steven Martinson, University of Arizona)
2. "'Personal Offense' and German Evolution: The Political Program of the *Xenien*" (Jeffrey L. High, California State University):
3. "'Geistesantipoden'? Goethe & Schiller, or: The Importance of Being Different" (Werner Frick, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)

PAST MEETINGS

Parody: Re-Visioning Goethe

Abstracts from the special GSNA session at the 2003 MLA, organized and chaired by Angela Borchert, University of Western Ontario

1. "A Lover's Self-Parody: Discrediting Romanticism while Creating Its Mythos" (Erich Denton, Wheaton College, Norton)

In this paper, I would like to reexamine the mythos of the romantic—the erotic and the melancholic—in Roland Barthes' *A Lover's Discourse* and Julia Kristeva's *Black Sun* as applied to the self-parody of the early Goethe. In one sense, I am looking for the missing link between Rabelais / Montaigne and Werther / Satyros in Goethe's parody of himself as proto-Romantic. In another sense, I am after a refutation of myths of feminine parody in recent work by David Wellbery and Benjamin Bennett.

Throughout his pre-1781 work, Goethe resorts to parody to resolve issues of polymorphous identity and sexuality. From Eridon in *Die Laune des Verliebten* to Oronoro in *Triumph der Empfindsamkeit*, Goethe has a habit of gutting and disemboweling the very romantic heroes he creates or inherits by way of literary influence. For this paper, I would like to focus on two works, a playlet and a mock-epic poemlet, Satyros and "Lilis Park," in order to analyze radical "voice changes" within such microscopic contexts. In Barthes' or Kristeva's terms, one might say we are dealing with manifestations of temper, temperament, and distemper as forms of parody that mask melancholy. In Wellbery's and Bennett's terms, one might say that we are dealing with parody as disfigurements of the feminine. It's voices that one more often identifies with Heine than Goethe. My paper suggests that Goethe uses parody to work out issues of gender, identity, and sexuality that remain polymorphous without the intervention of that parody.

2. "Constructive Parodies of Goethe's Deconstructed Hero: *Egmont*, *Prinz Friedrich von Homburg*, and *Dantons*

Tod” (Raleigh Whiting, University of Alberta, Edmonton)

Close consideration of how the theme of artistic activity imparts to *Egmont* (1788) a dimension of ironic reflection on its own idealistic visions of heroic and poetic triumph is the point of departure for approaching a more differentiated grasp of the allusions and echoes with which Heinrich von Kleist’s *Prinz Friedrich von Homburg* (1810) and Georg Büchner’s *Dantons Tod* (1835) evoke Goethe’s play—and thus for locating those dramas in the field of modern parody with its combination of homage and critique, with its acknowledgement and rethinking of an earlier work’s ideals (Hutcheon, Tynjanov).

Specific allusions in the two later plays suggest that Goethe and his *Egmont* are part of the idealistic tradition that both Kleist and Büchner take up to ponder and question. These evocations draw attention to further similarities and parallels—highlighting above all the way the later two plays echo the basic plot line of Goethe’s drama, with the one prominent result being their parodically ironic, even subversive reflection on the idealistic vision of hero and poetry that dominates the foreground of Goethe’s play. Like *Egmont*, each depicts its creatively gifted title-figure, though incarcerated and doomed in his collision with historical and political reality, indomitable in his struggle to find words and visions to resurrect a heroic image and mission that transcend his death. Yet the Kleist and Büchner plays increasingly twist and subvert the heroic and poetic ideals so prominent in Goethe’s play. The *Homburg* drama begins where *Egmont* leaves off—with a

dream scene—but emphasizes throughout that willfully read dream’s distance from the complexities of reality (“Ein Traum! was sonst?”). The *Danton* drama opens with a title-figure already cynically aware of the seductive lie of the heroic persona (“Man möchte sich in die Lüge verlieben”). Yet closer consideration of the way appearances of heroic and poetic triumph are ironically subverted in all three plays suggests something other than a black-white contrast between Goethe’s idealism and the cynical irony of Kleist or the nihilism that many see in Büchner’s pessimistic view of history—and thus the more complex nature of the parodic relationship involved, the later two plays not so much parodying the idealism of Goethe’s drama as paying homage to its pervasive irony. Essential to this consideration is the irony with which Goethe’s drama treats its own visions of heroic and poetic mastery—its every move towards closing visions of triumph paired with subversive signals about the efficacy of its protagonist’s identity and visions. In addition, the Kleist and Büchner dramas, as they take up and intensify this critical dialogue with the illusory artfulness behind the appearance of heroic and poetic triumph—his ironic deconstruction of the resurrected hero—pay constructive homage as well to Goethe’s intimations of the positive potentials that exist apart from the discourse of heroism, each later play too a monument to the poetic capacity of hero and poet alike to capture, in the face of downfall, the moments of beauty in life’s eternal stream. Thus with their complexly parodic re-thinking of *Egmont*, *Homburg* and *Danton* too express essentials of the modern German drama’s first century of development from Goethe to Nietzsche: their

intensification of Goethe's irony compels us to say of the heroic ideal "Es ist ein Traum!"; their ongoing homage to the indomitability of the poetic impulse invites us to exclaim "Ich will ihn weiter träumen!"

3. "Parodies, Pastiche or Deconstructive Plays? Botho Strauß' *Der junge Mann* and W. G. Sebald's *Austerlitz* as homages to *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (Helen Finch, Trinity College, Dublin)

Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* has spawned a tradition of interpretation that idealises it as a perfect model for a select and élitist literary genre known as the *Bildungsroman*, which in turn spawned a German discourse of *Bildung*. My paper will analyse the ways in which Strauß' *Der junge Mann* and Sebald's *Austerlitz* play on this discourse, and how they relate to the hypotext of *Wilhelm Meister*. My paper reads this relationship by exploiting the definition of parody suggested by Linda Hutcheon, according to which parody occupies an uneasy space between polemic and respectful imitation that adds to, rather than detracts from, the status of the hypotext. *Der junge Mann* is easily recognisable as a parody of Goethe's novel; its naive protagonist tries to realise himself as an aesthetic subject as a theatre director, but fails miserably due both to lack of talent and to the historical condition of West Germany in the 1980s. Here, parody serves a culturally critical function, using the hypotext to turn satire outwards on contemporary society. Thus, the Tower of Goethe's idealised *Turmgesellschaft* becomes for Strauß a dystopian supermarket of banal and threatening German identities. However, in *Der junge Mann* the putatively linear

narrative of the *Bildungsprojekt* breaks down into a fragmented polyphony of narrative voices, indicating that Strauß not only is using parody to criticise contemporary society, but is also mocking the totalising aspirations of the discourse of *Bildung*. In this context my paper also examines *Austerlitz*, which can be read as a(n) (*anti-*)*Bildungsroman* in reverse. Here, the protagonist returns to his city of origin and his first educator in an attempt to heal the division that the Holocaust and exile have created in him, yet fails to establish an "authentic" identity. In a melancholy and traumatic play on the discourse of the autonomous subject, Sebald plays the plot of *Wilhelm Meister* backwards, and calls into question the reductive tradition that would interpret Goethe's novel in terms of an ahistorical ideal of aesthetic education. As in *Der junge Mann*, the tragic events of German history and the culture of late capitalism make it impossible for a unitary subjectivity to be rescued. *Austerlitz* is far removed from the satirical or humorous aspects of parody, but it is informed by a melancholy irony, thus opening up new possibilities for a mourning parody which addresses the profound ruptures in the German inheritance of its Goethe-saturated canon. My paper will examine the extent to which these anti-*Bildung* narratives can be seen as a direct parody of Goethe's novel, in the sense suggested by Simon Dentith when he speaks of the parodies of a culture that feels itself to be belated. Such parodies, according to Dentith, approach their hypotext in a way that adds to its aura rather than diminishing it. As *Wilhelm Meister* is in itself a dialogic, unstable metafiction which, according to Margaret Rose's concept of parody as critical metafiction, is thus in a sense

already a parody of itself. My paper examines how the modern texts play on this autoparodic hypotext and to what extent they are thereby doubly parodic, engaging with *Wilhelm Meister's* internal tensions to examine the pervasive ideologies of aesthetic subjectivity, ahistorical ideals of education, and of the pedagogical function of the hypotext.

ESSAY PRIZE

The Society seeks nominations or self-nominations for its annual essay prize, which carries an award of \$250. Please submit four copies of your choice for the best essay published in the year 2003 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures

by October 15, 2004 to:

Professor W. Daniel Wilson
Department of German
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-3243
Tel.: (510) 642-2973
Fax: (510) 642-3243
danw@socrates.berkeley.edu

Congratulations!

Horst Lange, University of Nevada at Reno, was named the 2003 recipient of the GSNA Essay Prize for his two essays on *Götz von Berlichingen*. "Wolves, Sheep, and the Shepherd: Legality, Legitimacy, and Hobbesian Political Theory in Goethe's *Götz von*

Berlichingen." *Goethe Yearbook* 10 (2001): 1-30; and "Weislingen: Goethe's Politics of the Ego." *Goethe Yearbook* 11 (2002): 177-196.

GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP

The Society offers a scholarship in honor of the late Gloria Flaherty, the accomplished scholar and founding member of the Goethe Society, "to provide financial aid to worthy undergraduate and/or graduate students who wish to further their education in areas related to the interests promoted by the society."

Guidelines

Several years ago, the GSNA Board of Directors drafted guidelines for the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship and appointed the Directors-at-Large as the scholarship committee. One or two prizes of up to \$500 each in travel funds will be given annually to students working on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe. There are two categories for the competition: 1) Money for travel required by a research project on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe; 2) Money for travel to present a paper on Goethe and/or his Age. The Society is not bound to present a prize in either category in any given year. "Age of Goethe" has its normal, relatively narrow range of meaning. It refers not merely to a specific period of historical time, but also to the existence of reasonably clear paths of association with Goethe's person, works, interest, or activities.

Students who will either deliver a paper or complete a research project before receiving a doctoral degree are eligible.

Application procedure

The applicant seeking travel money to deliver a paper should send: 1) a copy of the paper to be read, or of the most complete available draft; 2) evidence that the paper has been accepted for presentation by a reputable scholarly organization or institution. The applicant seeking travel money for research should send: 1) a detailed description of the research project, including a reasonable selection of supporting materials. If the project description exceeds two pages (ca. 600 words) in length, it must be accompanied by a synopsis or summary not exceeding that length; 2) One letter of recommendation from a scholar who is familiar with the applicant's earlier work in either courses or research.

N.B. One letter of recommendation means "only one." No letters of recommendation should accompany applications for money to present a paper. Letters of recommendation should be sent by the recommenders directly to the committee. Any materials that the candidate wishes to have returned must be accompanied by postage and an appropriate and pre-addressed mailing container. Send completed application

by October 15, 2004 to:

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Tel.: (510) 642-2973
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Congratulations!

Viktoria Harms, a graduate student in the Department of Germanics, University of Washington, was named the 2003 recipient of the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship. The Scholarship will be used to support her travel costs to the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies to read a paper on "The Military and Its Role Within Society in *Egmont*."

DUES

Please send your 2004 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Angela Borchert. Dues are payable in each calendar year, see the schedule below. The GYB is sent only once this obligation is met..

active member	\$25
senior member	\$35
patron	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$40

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